

MINUTES (in Review)

NEUROLOGICAL FOUNDATION AGM



Name:	Neurological Foundation of NZ
Date:	Thursday, 3 November 2022
Time:	7:30 pm to 9:00 pm (NZDT)
Location:	Online, Web conferencing service
Board Members:	Professor Cathy Stinear (Chair), Georgina Hunter, John Kelly, Simon John, Sonja Clapham, Anna Lissaman, Matthew Slater, Lisa Smith
Attendees:	James Hellaby, Rich Easton, Simon Thorne
Apologies:	Barbara Bridger
Guests/Notes:	Dr Scott Graham

1. State of neurological research

1.1 Welcome

Chair, Cathy Stinear welcomed the Neurological Foundation members to the 2022 AGM. She also welcomed our guest speaker, Dr Scott Graham.

1.2 State of neurological research

Dr Scott Graham presented a summary of the last year, covering successes and challenges to the neuroscience community and neurological research.

A copy of his presentation is included in the minutes.

2. Present & apologies

2.1 AGM approach

Cathy Stinear confirmed a quorum of members were in attendance.

Apologies were received from:

- Pip Harrison
- Heather Kelly
- David North
- Barbara Bridger
- Judith McMorland
- Doug Lineham
- Leo Hobbis
- Heather Hay
- Shirley Blackie

3. Minutes & matters arising

3.1 Confirm Minutes

Annual General Meeting - 2021 23 Sep 2021, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



Motion to accept minutes from 2021 AGM

Motion approved by Members

Decision Date: 3 Nov 2022
Mover: Professor Cathy Stinear
Seconder: Rich Easton
Outcome: Approved

3.2 Matters arising

No matters arising were raised.

4. Chair's report

4.1 Present Chair's report

Cathy Stinear presented the Chair report, which covered:

- Sharing her appreciation and thank you to our Donors; the volunteers who support our Council & Committees and the Team at the Neurological Foundation for their support throughout the year
- An acknowledgment of Georgina Hunter and James Ring who joined Council in 2021
- An introduction of Anna Lissaman, Lisa Smith and Matthew Slater who have been proposed as new Council members
- A thank you and farewell to three Council members retiring, Baden Ewart, James Hellaby and James Ring, noting the extended years of services from James H and Baden E
- The move of the Foundation's investment portfolio to Mercer as our Investment Manager
- A recognition of the breadth and depth of research the Foundation funds, from more common to rarer neurological conditions, both clinically and in the laboratory
- And the pride in the work that everyone has been able to achieve in a challenging year, where continued adaption to changing situations was needed



Motion proposed to accept Chair report

Seconded by Scott Graham

Motion approved by Members

Decision Date: 3 Nov 2022
Mover: Rich Easton
Outcome: Approved

5. Financial report

5.1 Present financial report

Rich Easton gave the financial report for the financial year 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022, which covered:

- Summary of funding for research, almost \$8M, with \$5M in research grants and \$2M for renewal of Chair of Clinical Neurology
- The funding to support researchers impacted by COVID-19, over \$500,000 during the financial year and almost \$1.5M since COVID-19 started
- A note that the Annual Impact report (printed version) did not have audited financials as Deloitte (the Foundation's auditors) were unable to start on time due to COVID-19 impact on resourcing
- The financial audit has been completed and approved by the Foundation's Council and has been lodged with Charities Services, following an extension granted by them
- Summary of the financial position:
 - Commitment of over \$7.78M to research
 - Income of \$6.79M, of which \$3.37M was from bequests
 - A loss of \$615K on the investment portfolio due to extreme market challenges globally on the investment sector
 - Operating expenditure held steady at \$2.55M which included the Foundation's education, awareness and fundraising activities
 - The transfer of over \$80M of investments to Mercer
- Some highlights from the year
 - Continuation of 50th anniversary celebrations
 - Growth in digital webinars
 - More Supporter / Donor engagement over phone / video calling to reduce COVID-19 risks
 - A new fundraising database
 - 8 months of working remotely due to COVID-19
 - First iteration of our Statement of Service Performance, which the Foundation will be audited on next year
- Thank you messages to
 - Chair and Council and the Committees for their time volunteered to help Foundation
 - Experts globally who help peer review applications
 - The research community
 - The Neurological Foundation team
 - The Foundation's supporters, without whom none of this could happen



Motion proposed to accept the CEO / Financial report

Seconded by Scott Graham

Motion approved by Members

Decision Date: 3 Nov 2022

Mover: Professor Cathy Stinear

Outcome: Approved

6. Election of Councillors

6.1 Council members election

Proposal to vote for three new Council members together was presented and no objections raised.

Formal thank you to James Hellaby, Baden Ewart and James Ring for their services to the Foundation on the Council.



Motion to elect Anna Lissaman, Lisa Smith and Matthew Slater as members of Council

Motion approved by Members

Decision Date: 3 Nov 2022
Mover: Professor Cathy Stinear
Seconder: Rich Easton
Outcome: Approved

7. Appointment of Auditors

7.1 Appointment of auditors



Motion to appoint Deloitte as the Foundation's auditors for the 2022 - 2023 financial year

Motion approved by Members

Decision Date: 3 Nov 2022
Mover: Professor Cathy Stinear
Seconder: Rich Easton
Outcome: Approved

8. Research committee update

8.1 SAC & PAC reports

Scott Graham provided a summary of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and Personal Awards Committee (PAC) for the year, which covered:

- Growth in the volume of applications to both Committees for review, and the Committee members dedication in reviewing this increased load
- An increasing trend from the Foundation on the funding available to support neurological research
- The success rates for grant applications to the Foundation in the range of 20 - 25%, compared to other similar funding bodies such as Health Research Council or Marsden who fund around 8% of applications
- Growth in the number of Fellowships & Scholarships offered and the corresponding work to interview all candidates
- A healthy growth in the number of research lab groups throughout New Zealand, which has direct links to the support the Foundation provides to the research community
- And, as always, the challenge of being able to fund all the quality requests for funding received
- A big thank you to the PAC & SAC Committees for their work, to the Council for their support and approval and to the Foundation's team, in particular the Research area led by Sarah Schonberger



Motion to accept the SAC and PAC report

Motion approved by Members

Decision Date: 3 Nov 2022
Mover: Professor Cathy Stinear
Seconder: Rich Easton
Outcome: Approved

9. General Business

9.1 General business items

One item of general business raised, relating to the challenges in the wait times for people needing Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) treatment, which has been on hold due to COVID-19 and currently has significantly long lead times.

Feedback from Cathy & Rich on the challenges in the health sector brought on by COVID-19, plus the work underway lobbying into Government and the Health Sector through the Neurological Alliance, to raise awareness of the clinical impacts on those living with neurological conditions.

No other matters raised.

The meeting was closed.

10. Close Meeting

10.1 Meeting closes

Next meeting: Council meeting Nov 2022 - 25 Nov 2022, 8:30 am

Signature: _____

Date: _____